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VALUE OF CLANDESTINE RECORDS IN INTELLIGENCE

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The collection, processing, analysis, and presentation of intelligence information must be of the highest quality to enable consumers to make accurate decisions on any given subject. It is imperative that members of the intelligence community be provided with the exact information needed in the right place at the right time. The Directorate of Operations Information Resources Management Program was created to meet federal statutory requirements and consists primarily of the US Government's counterintelligence index.

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The National Security Act of 1947 set forth in its implementing directives the establishment of a central file and index. In 1952, the Office of Policy Coordination (OPC) and Office of Strategic Operations (OSO) were merged to form what is now the Directorate of Operations. Along with this merger the OPC Registry files were integrated with those of the Clandestine Services records division, subsequently named Records Integration Division (RID) and currently the Information Management Staff (IMS). Responsibility for replying to requests for information from other US Government agencies was gradually assumed by IMS.

In 1958 the DO recognized that the manual process being used to respond to the intelligence community was too slow. Some responses were taking up to four months. Recognition of the problem introduced completely new approaches in the application of automation, but it would be another ten years before the central index would be automated. In 1975, a planning group was established to identify the DO's information service requirements over the next ten years and to develop design specifications for the information systems needed to meet those requirements. This resulted in the creation of "A blueprint for the 1980's," approved by the DDO in November 1976. This document described the approach, objectives, tasks, findings, and recommendations of the Planning Group. Thus was born the concept of the Directorate of Operations Records and Information Control Systems (DORIC).

Today DORIC provides information services in support of the DDO; analysis, research, reporting, and operational policy and management; inter-agency activities and responsibilities of common concern; and the DO's response to Privacy Act, Freedom of Information Act, and Executive and Legislative inquiries. A new planning effort designed to achieve desired objectives and maximum use of human and technical capabilities is also

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underway. It has been named the DO Long-Range Plan for Handling Information (DOLPHIN). IMS research specialists involved in this effort have been tasked to define goals and objectives, fully accommodate the plethora of information management challenges generated by the automated information explosion, and chart the course that information handling within the DO is to take in the immediate and long-term future. The DO's current automated foreign intelligence and counterintelligence data base has the capability to search millions of records in seconds to locate counterintelligence information in support of DO operations, other CIA directorate and intelligence community trace requests, and to surface information relevant to congressional investigations and inquiries.

The development of a sophisticated directorate-wide Information Resource Management Program to manage information as a resource has provided the DO with a capability to research, review, and evaluate vast collections of information with great effectiveness. Some US law enforcement Agencies consistently assign top priority to requests for information on persons of interest; most notably, those who may pose a threat to the President or other senior officials. The DO has surfaced positive, derogatory information during these searches, making it possible for the requesting agency to further evaluate the situation and determine a course of action. The DO has provided other US Government agencies information leading to the expulsion or exclusion from the United States of subversive persons who wish to undermine or disrupt our government.

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To disregard the value of records in the world of intelligence would defeat the purpose of the United States foreign intelligence mission and the policy that supports it. It is for this reason that the DO has attempted to stay atop of the most important developments in automated data processing, tailoring the most desired automated creations to our existing systems. A new era in electronic communications has far reaching effects on how we collect, store, retrieve, and evaluate today's information for tomorrow's use. The DO is accelerating its efforts to ensure that the information created in automated systems is securely compartmented, maintained and disposed of in compliance with federal laws and statutes, and that personnel are educated on their legal responsibilities and requirements for maintaining federal records.

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